

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-61. (Cancelled)

62. (New) A method for detecting the presence of a metalloproteinase in a chronic wound of a human or an animal, the method comprising:

- a) collecting a sample of fluid from the chronic wound;
- b) exposing the sample to a target antibody that is configured to bind with the metalloproteinase to form a target antibody/metalloproteinase complex;
- c) identifying the metalloproteinase by determining the presence or absence of a detectable or measurable manifestation of a signal element bound to the target antibody; and
- d) based on the metalloproteinase identified, selecting a tissue inhibitor that inhibits the activation or activity of the metalloproteinase.

63. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the target antibody is configured to preferentially bind to a proenzyme form of the metalloproteinase.

64. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein the proenzyme form of the metalloproteinase is selected from the group consisting of proMMP-1, proMMP-8, and proMMP-9.

65. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein the target antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

66. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the target antibody is configured to preferentially bind to the active form of the metalloproteinase.

67. (New) The method of claim 66, wherein the active form of the metalloproteinase is MMP-1, MMP-8, or MMP-9.

68. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the target antibody and the signal element are both bound directly to a particle.

69. (New) The method of claim 68, wherein the particle is polymer, latex, gold, glass, silicon, metal, bacterial or fungal cell, or a combination thereof.

70. (New) The method of claim 68, wherein the particle is a polystyrene bead.

71. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the signal element is a colorimetric compound, radio-active compound, potentiometric element, fluorescent compound, chemo-illuminiscent compound, light diffracting element, or combination thereof.

72. (New) The method of claim 62, further comprising exposing the complex to a capture antibody immobilized within a reaction site, the manifestation of the signal element being identified at the reaction site.

73. (New) The method of claim 72, wherein the target antibody and signal element are contained in a sample reservoir prior to exposure to the sample.

74. (New) The method of claim 73, wherein the sample reservoir is in fluid communication with the reaction site.

75. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein the fluid communication between the sample reservoir and the reaction site is a channel, a capillary, a wick, or a combination thereof.

76. (New) The method of claim 72, wherein a collection area is positioned in fluid communication with the reaction site.

77. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein the fluid communication between the collection area and the reaction site is a channel, a capillary, a wick, or a combination thereof.

78. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein an absorbent pad is positioned within the sample reservoir, the collection area, or a combination thereof.

79. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the sample is exposed to a plurality of antibodies, each antibody being bindable to a different proteinase enzyme, and wherein the presence of a plurality of proteinase enzymes is detected simultaneously.

80. (New) The method of claim 79, wherein a plurality of reaction sites are in fluid communication with the sample reservoir.

81. (New) The method of claim 80, wherein each reaction site has a different capture antibody immobilized therein.